

85th Group pilot complete Fini-Flight, enjoy soak down



Photo by PH2 Daniel Richardson

Maj. Brian Gienapp is soaked down by his family and friends after completing his Fini-Flight. Fini flights are an old military tradition going back to World War II. During the Vietnam War, a pilot who completed 100 missions was considered to have completed his duties and sent home. The pilot would be met on the flight line with champagne and doused with a fire hose. Now a "fini-flight" is a pilot/aircrew's final flight with their unit. Gienapp is doused by friends and family.

NASKEF community faces several challenges during draw down

*Story and photos by Ben Murray
Stars and Stripes*

Many people at Naval Air Station Keflavik, Iceland, knew the base could be closed down. Rumors that the U.S. would one day pull out of the remote Cold War post had circulated for years, locals said, and talks between the two nations' governments this winter hinted that movements were afoot.

But few ever thought that when word did come about Keflavik's future, it would be so sudden or call for the base to be shuttered on such an aggressive timeline.

There was a pervading feeling that, "They'll eventually draw down, but not during my time," said Tech. Sgt. Dave Oddo, of the 932nd Air Control Squadron.

On March 15, however, the U.S. government announced it would close the base by this October, ending a 65-year American military presence in the country in just over six months.

"That was a jaw-dropper," said Staff Sgt. Rhodello Nuval from the 85th Group Civil Engineering Squadron.

A mix of about 1,200 U.S. Navy and Air Force personnel man the base and the Keflavik airport, home to the 56th Rescue Squadron, known for

saving scores of lives in the country in the past three decades.

With the March announcement, Airmen and Sailors who signed up to live and work in Iceland for coming years suddenly faced immediate reassignments and household moves to different countries, plus an unexpected turn in their careers that some said alters their plans for their military future.

"We were really heartbroken we couldn't go over to Europe," Oddo said. "Something like this, it really does change your mindset."

Quick decisions, limited choices

Within just a few weeks of the March 15 announcement, the reassignment of Keflavik servicemembers was already under way. In April, teams of Navy detailers - the people who manage sailors' movement to new duty stations - arrived at the base for a lightning round of reassignments.

The process they used was a bit of a double-edged sword, said Petty Officer 3rd Class Matthew Winegar. Sailors were called in for face-to-face meetings with the detailers - a rare benefit, sailors said - but were then given a list of reassignment options from which they had to choose right then and there.

It was good, Winegar said, because having the

detailers on site provided flexibility and made it easy to talk over individual options. But decisions had to be made with no time to research possible new communities or bases, he said.

For airmen, there was more time to look over options, likely because at the time of the announcement the Air Force was in the process of boosting its presence in Keflavik while the Navy drew down. But choices tended to be somewhat

See NASKEF pg. 3



Military work vehicles at NAS Keflavik are lined up prior to being loaded into shipping containers and sent out of Iceland as part of the draw down of the base.

TRANSITION NEWS

Base Closure Internet FAQ

When is the last day I can use my Dial-Up/ADSL subscription?

July 31st. is the scheduled last day for Internet connectivity from MWR ISP.

Do I need to purchase my ADSL router if I decide to have my service to end of July?

Yes.

Why?

July 7th is the absolute last date that MWR can have their books opened. Therefore any ADSL router returned after that day cannot be refunded. ADSL customers, who wish to have their ADSL service in July, need to purchase their modems.

If I wish to use my Internet Service in July, how much do I need to pay or get refunded?

See the following examples:

Customer A has basic router and minimum (ADSL 1024) service:

ADSL 1024 service charge	\$60
Basic router refund	-\$80
Basic router special half price	\$40

Payment \$20

Customer B has wireless router and minimum (ADSL 1024) service:

ADSL 1024 service charge	\$60
Wireless router refund	-\$160
Wireless router special half price	\$80

Refund -\$20

Note: The above amounts are based on the minimum service charges that MWR ISP offers.

Can I use my ADSL modem/router in the US?

Yes you can, the ZyXel ADSL modem/routers support PPPoE, PPPoA, Enet Encap and RFC 1483. PPPoE is the most common access method for ADSL services.

But my modem is already preset for MWR ISP. What do I need to do so I can use it with other Internet Providers?

Our modems are preset in two different ways. If they are labeled "RESET-ABLE" you need to fol-

low the instructions from <http://www.mwr.is/adsl/> reset and proceed. If they are not labeled with the above label, all you need to do is to push the small reset button on the back of the modem and hold in for 10 seconds. The modem then returns to factory settings. WARNING: Just make sure you do this AFTER you have terminated your account with us.

Am I getting your modem for a fair price?

The ZyXel ADSL 650R-31 and 660R-61 basic routers have proven to be very stable routers and which are easily configurable and can support down speed up to 8Mbps. The 660R-61 also supports ADSL2+, which support speed up to 12Mbps. The price range on these routers on the Internet is from \$70 up to \$130. Our price is \$40. The ZyXel ADSL 660H-61 has the same features as the Wireless router (see below) except from the wireless part. The price range on the Internet is \$104 to \$144. Our price \$40.

The ZyXel ADSL 660HW-61 Wireless router is a highly sophisticated Internet security gateway. It has built in SPI (Stateful Packet Investigation) firewall with denial of service attack, supports wireless B/G and G+ (up to 125Mbps), WEP encryption and other features. Price range on the Internet is from \$128 up to \$259. Our price is \$80.

For more info see <http://www.zyxel.com>.

DoD Announces Installation Realignment in UK

The Department of Defense announced today that it would cease operations at RAF Eastcote and reduce operations at RAF West Ruislip, United Kingdom.

Due to U.S. European Command force structure realignment and transformation, and the subsequent reduction in installation and personnel support requirements that have occurred during the past several years, U.S. Naval Forces Europe has identified these facilities as excess to the Navy's needs.

Consequently, Navy operations at RAF Eastcote will cease by June 30 and will begin the process of returning facilities to the host nation by Oct. 1. This action is expected to save \$400,000 annually

in facility costs with additional personnel savings to be realized by 2009. It will affect 70 U.S. service members, 33 DoD civilian employees and 38 host nation employees.

Navy operations at RAF West Ruislip will be reduced beginning June 30 with a scheduled turn-over of affected facilities on Oct. 1. Facilities affected by the reduction will be included in the process of return to the host nation. This action is expected to save \$1 million annually in facility costs with additional savings to be realized in 2009. It will affect seven U.S. service members, 55 DoD civilian employees and 95 host nation employees.

Ultimate total annual savings with these actions will be about \$10 million.

As with all stationing actions, the U.S. has coordinated with host nation officials before this announcement.

For additional information regarding this announcement, contact Commander Naval Activities United Kingdom public affairs at +(44) 149-479-5820.



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Questions or comments can be directed to the Public Affairs Officer or Editor.

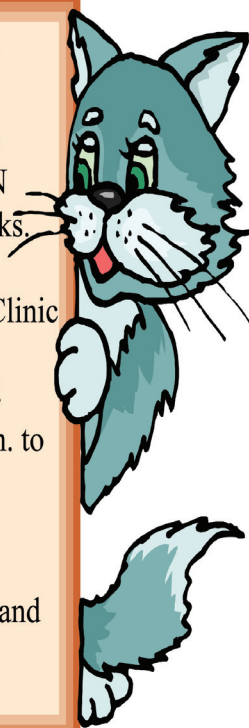
The White Falcon staff can be reached by calling 4552 or by e-mail at IDF.PAO@naskef.navy.mil or stopping by Building 128.

The deadline for story submissions is close of business Monday prior to publication. The White Falcon is published bi-weekly. The White Falcon reserves the right to edit all submissions.

The White Falcon is online at www.nctskef.navy.mil.

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Vets from the Northern Europe Veterinary Detachment will be on Island June 6-15. This is a great opportunity to get or update Health Certificates, rabies vaccines, FAVN draws, minor sick calls, travel kennel checks. There will be no surgeries will be done. All this takes place at the U.S. Army Vet Clinic at Navy Hangar, Bldg. 831, Room 26. Call DSN 314-226-7377 or commercial 44 1638 527 377 between 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. to schedule an appointment. After hours call DSN 314-226-7097 or commercial 44 1638 527 097 and leave a message - speak slowly, leave your name and phone number. You can even e-mail: NEVD.UK@lakenheath.af.mil.



Hangar 831

**U.S. Army
Vet Clinic Location**

**Follow arrow from
flight line gate.**





Mover Ingvi Thor Einarsson loads up boxes of household goods from a home at Naval Air Station Keflavik, where families are leaving the base in droves ahead of an Oct. 1 closing date.

From NASKEF pg. 1

limited, some said, often ruling out the option of continuing to live overseas.

Of the four openings available in Oddo's field, for instance, three were at Luke Air Force Base in Arizona.

'A pig down a snake's throat'

For those in charge of the exodus from Keflavik, the biggest challenge was figuring out how to get so many families and their possessions out of the base in just a few months, base commander Navy Capt. Mark Laughton said.

Base officials had pre-planned scenarios for how to empty the place in short order, but it is still a monumental task, one he likened to trying to cram a pig down a snake's throat.

At the time of the announcement, Keflavik supported a population of about 2,500 U.S. servicemembers and civilians, he said.

"That's a lot of folks and a lot of stuff," he said. "Here we are in the middle of the North Atlantic."

The plan, already well in motion, is essentially to move people out in large chunks, with a blitz in the early summer. By mid-June, Laughton estimates, there will be fewer than 1,250 people left at Keflavik, and by mid-July, fewer than 500.

The last to go, he said, will be those in the mission-essential jobs, particularly security forces and those running the dual commercial/military airfield.

The final U.S. posture in Iceland is yet to be determined and is still a matter of talks at a higher political level, he said.

'I don't know anything else'

Another major effect of the base closure is the loss of roughly 900 jobs for local Icelanders, many of whom have spent most of their careers working at the base, said Icelandic Defense Force spokesman Fridthor Eyedal.

Like the servicemembers, many knew there could come a day when the base would be reduced, but few thought this fall was it.

Valthor Jonsson, maintenance division director for public works at the base, said he had intended to finish his working life at Keflavik.

"That was my plan," he said. "I've been here 32 years. I don't know anything else."

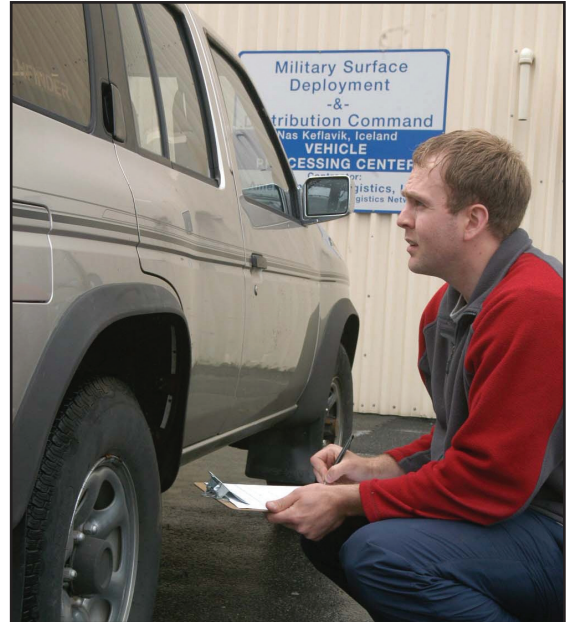
About one-third of Jonsson's local employees are over 60 years old, and he said he worries for their futures. Few will be able to make as much money on the local economy as they do at the

base.

Still, Icelandic employees said the market in the area and around nearby Reykjavik is good at the moment, and those who received termination letters got them almost immediately after the announcement, allowing them time to search for work.

"This base was a good employer," Jonsson said. "Everybody's been hoping this would last longer. We realize it's a changing world."

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Orvar Kristjansson checks out a car the vehicle processing center is sending out of the country as the military population pulls out. In a normal month, the center used to send about 15 vehicles per boatload, but recently it has been sending about 85 at a time, he said.

NASKEF policy outlines acceptable tattoo, body jewelry policy

NASKEF Impermissible Tattoo/Bodily Ornamentation Description

Qualifying tattoos, body art, brands, mutilations and dental ornamentation

The following do not meet the requirements of NAVADMIN 110/06:

Mutilation means intentional radical alteration of the body, head, face or skin for purpose of and resulting in an abnormal appearance

- Foreign objects under skin
- Stretched out ear holes (larger than normal earring holes)
- Intentional scarring on neck, face or scalp

• Intentional burning to create design or pattern

- Split or Forked tongue

Dental ornamentation

- Gold, platinum or other veneers for purposes of ornamentation
- Teeth, whether natural, capped or veneered will not be ornamented with designs, jewels, initial, etc.

Tattoos by content

- Obscene, sexually explicit, and/or advocate discrimination based on sex, race, religion, ethnicity or national origin
- Gang affiliation, supremacist or



extremist

- Advocate illegal drug use
- Tattoos by location
- Head, face, neck or scalp
- On torso visible through white uniform

Tattoos by size

- Exposed by wearing short sleeved uniform shall be no larger than hand with fingers together and thumb adjacent

NASKEF Tattoo/Bodily Ornamentation Policy Resolution Procedure

Step 1:

Servicemember (SNM) determines if they have a tattoo or bodily ornamentation that does not meet the requirements of Navy Uniform Regulations and NAVADMIN 110/06.

Failure to comply (request waiver) if they are found to have inappropriate tattoos/bodily ornamentations could subject SNM to discipline and/or administrative separation.

If SNM has a tattoo or bodily ornamentation that does meet the requirements, i.e. does not violate policy, then SNM does not need to take any action.

Step 2:

If SNM has a tattoo or bodily ornamentation that does not meet the requirements, i.e. violates policy, then SNM submit NAVPERS 1336/3 requesting consideration of waiver for tattoo, including written description with size and content for tattoos. SNM shall include a color photo of tattoos.

If tattoo is a large arm tattoo, then SNM shall also include a color photo of the tattoo with hand covering to demonstrate size. SNM shall indicate on chit if tattoo existed prior to

24 January 2003 or not.

Step 3:

Chain of command shall route chit recommending approval/disapproval consistent with NAVADMIN 110/06.

Step 4:

CO will determine whether waiver or alter/remove order is needed and will issue appropriate Pg. 13.

NOTE 1:

In the event SNM submits chit requesting waiver and the subject bodily ornamentation is not a "Qualifying Tattoo" i.e. it meets regulations, then chit may be returned noting "no waiver necessary, ornamentation currently complies with uniform regs" or words to that effect on chit. SNM should retain chit for future reference.

NOTE 2:

In the event SNM is in the process of getting new bodily ornamentation that violates policy, SNM should be informed that this violates the Uniform Regulations and ordered to stop and remove/alter via Pg. 13 or face discipline and/or adsep.

NOTE 3:

All NASKEF tenant's may feel free to use this guidance and consult NASKEF Legal with questions.



Military Sealift Command (MSC) fast combat support ship USNS Rainier (T-AOE 7), center, provides fuel for the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) and the Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer USS McCampbell (DDG 85). All three ships are part of the Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group, which is currently deployed as part of a routine rotation of U.S. maritime forces in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, as well as conducting Maritime Security Operations (MSO) in the region. MSO set the conditions for security and stability in the maritime environment as well as complement the counter-terrorism and security efforts in regional nations. MSO deny international terrorists use of the maritime environment as a venue for attack or to transport personnel, weapons, or other material.

(Photo by PH3 Aaron Burden)

The Anchor of Hope

We Remember

Story by Chaplain Bill Dermott

This coming weekend here, we have the good fortune to celebrate what is called a "96" or a four-day holiday weekend.

We commonly refer to this coming weekend as the Memorial Day Weekend.

Back in the United States it is the un-official beginning of summer. Many parks, campgrounds and beaches open for the start of the summer season. It is generally understood as a weekend for fun; with parties, cookouts, and picnics enjoyed by many families.

All of this is great; but none of it has *anything* to do with Memorial Day.

The first celebrations of Memorial Day began in the late 1860s.

Memorial Day was first known as Decoration Day. It was a day to recall in a very solemn and somber manner the sacrifices of all Americans who gave their lives in the American Civil War fought from 1861-1865. The manner of remembering these fallen men and women was to decorate their graves with flowers. The annual celebration grew in its observance; but it was not until after World War I that it was declared by Congress and changed to Memorial Day and recall the service of all those who have died in service to our nation.

There are some annual observances that still occur. Our President will still lay a wreath of flowers at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. And since the late 1950s on the Thursday before Memorial Day some 1,200 Soldiers of the 3d U.S. Infantry will place a small American flag at each of the 260,000 gravestones at Arlington National Cemetery.

They will then patrol throughout the weekend to ensure each flag remains standing for Memorial Day.

While we are not in America, America and the real reason for this celebration will be in our hearts this coming weekend.

Yes, we have some extra time off to relax; but the real reason is back home and in our hearts. The reason is to remember and never forget the sacrifices made by so many in the past, so that we and our loved ones may enjoy our American freedoms each day.

Happy Memorial Day 2006

Chapel of Light Worship Services

Tues – Fri

11:30 a.m. - Catholic Mass

Sat

5:30 a.m. - Catholic Mass

Sun

8:30 a.m. - Liturgical Worship Service (Until June 11)

8:30 a.m. - Church of Christ Worship

9:45 a.m. - Catholic Mass

11 a.m. - Evangelical Service

11 a.m. - New Birth Christian Fellowship (Firehouse Chapel)

12:30 p.m. - Full Gospel Fellowship



Naval Hospital Keflavik becomes Clinic

By LCDR Jay Rigsbee
Naval Hospital Keflavik PAO

The U.S. Naval Hospital Keflavik will transform to a clinic on June 2.

The main changes will be in the scope of specialty care and inpatient services offered at the Naval Hospital.

After June 2, the hospital will no longer offer inpatient care or specialty care in the areas of general surgery, obstetrics and anesthesia.

These services, currently utilized at the Naval Hospital and in the local community, will be exclusively provided within the civilian network/Icelandic Health Care system.

The Naval Hospital will continue to be staffed with family physicians who will continue to offer the wide scope of outpatient care they currently provide.

Emergency Medical Response will continue to be provided through our

Ambulance service.

The Naval Hospital medical staff has been working with Icelandic healthcare authorities in Keflavik and Reykjavik to ensure a smooth transition.

"Our main focus is that our beneficiaries continue to receive high quality, family centered health care through our stay at Naval Station Keflavik," Capt. Michael D. McCarten, commanding officer Naval Hospital Keflavik said.



Pandemic & Avian Influenza Update May 15

Executive Summary

Pandemic Influenza Alert Phase remains unchanged at Level 3 (no human-to-human transmission).

WHO has confirmed human infection with Avian Influenza (H5N1) in ten countries.

Djibouti is now the tenth country where people have been infected with the virus. At least 207 people have contracted the disease globally and 115 have died over the last 3 years, according to WHO. Virtually all the individuals were exposed to the disease from poultry.

Avian influenza may be capable of invading people through the gastrointestinal tract, not just the respiratory system, and diarrhea is sometimes the first symptom.

Analysts' Recommendations: **Revisit, Review, and Revise your Avian Influenza and Pandemic Influenza plans!** Realize that these documents should not be completed to satisfy a requirement and then shelved without further consideration. Rather, they should be fluid and amenable to change based upon new information and current conditions. Contact NEPMU-2 for guidance and assistance.

How are Pandemic, Avian, and Seasonal Influenza (flu) Different?

• **Pandemic influenza:** Currently there is no pandemic flu. A flu pandemic is a global outbreak that occurs when a new influenza A virus causes serious human illness and spreads easily from person to person.

• **Avian influenza:** "Bird flu" is caused by avian influenza viruses, which occur naturally among birds.

• **Seasonal influenza:** The flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses & occurs seasonally as a generally mild influenza.

Current Synopsis of **Seasonal Influenza Activity in the U.S.** (www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly):

Influenza activity in the United States peaked in early March and continued at low levels during week 18 (April 30 – May 6). Ninety-three specimens (8.9%) tested by U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collaborating laboratories were positive for influenza. The proportion of patient visits to sentinel providers for influenza-like illness (ILI) was below the national baseline. The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza was below the threshold level. Five states reported local influenza activity; 38 states, the District of Columbia, New York City, and Puerto Rico reported sporadic influenza activity; and seven states reported no activity.

Threat Assessment Department
Navy Environmental & Preventive Medicine Unit 2
1887 Powhatan Street • Norfolk, VA 23511-3394
(757) 444-7671 • Fax: (757) 444-1191 • DSN: 564

Current Assessment of Situation:

The avian influenza A (H5N1) epizootic (animal outbreak) in Asia and parts of Europe is not expected to diminish significantly in the short term.

It is likely that H5N1 infection among birds has become endemic in certain areas and that human infections resulting from direct contact with infected poultry will continue to occur.

So far, the spread of H5N1 virus from person-to-person has been rare and has not continued beyond one person. No evidence for genetic reassortment between human and avian influenza A virus genes has been found; however, the epizootic in Asia continues to pose an important public health threat.

There is little pre-existing natural immunity to H5N1 infection in the human population. If these H5N1 viruses gain the ability for efficient and sustained transmission among humans, an influenza pandemic could result, with potentially high rates of illness and death.

Research suggests that currently circulating strains of H5N1 viruses are becoming more capable of causing disease (pathogenic) in mammals than were earlier H5N1 viruses. One study found that ducks infected with H5N1 virus are now shedding more virus for longer periods without showing symptoms of illness. This finding has implications for the role of ducks in transmitting disease to other birds and possibly to humans as well. Additionally, other findings have documented H5N1 infection among pigs in China and H5N1 infection in felines (experimental infection in housecats in the Netherlands and isolation of H5N1 viruses in tigers and leopards in Thailand).

The majority of known human H5N1 cases have begun with respiratory symptoms. However, one atypical fatal case of encephalitis in a child in southern Vietnam in 2004 was identified retrospectively as H5N1 influenza through testing of cerebrospinal fluid, fecal matter, and throat and serum samples. Further research is needed to ascertain the implications of such findings.

Experimentally, it has been shown that domestic

cats can be infected with H5N1 through eating infected material and that these infected cats can transmit influenza to other cats. The risk to humans from an H5N1-infected cat is hard to quantify; H5N1 remains poorly adapted to humans, so the cat's infection will not cross over easily. The present evidence is that cats with infectious H5N1 are quite ill, so the risk of acquiring H5N1 from a clinically normal cat may be negligible. Similarly, the risk will be minimal in areas where there is no H5N1. Humans are actually at considerably greater risk from other zoonoses in cats such as toxocara, toxoplasmosis, and ringworm, and basic hygiene measures for handling companion animals are important to prevent infection in humans.

If a bird-flu pandemic does hit the US, it may well spread from Asia and start in California and spread across the country in just two to four weeks.

Epidemics with more pathogenic viruses spread more quickly, two to four weeks versus five to seven weeks for less pathogenic viruses nationwide.

Saluting Unsung Heroes

Story by LCDR Jay Rigsbee, Photo by JO2 Matthew Bradley

This week The White Falcon salutes Army Sgt. Todd Laird, the Veterinarian Technician at U.S. Naval Hospital Keflavik's Preventative Medicine Department.

Laird was one of the top three to finish in the "Iron NCO" competition.



What he did for the first phase of BNCOC (Basic Non-Commissioned Officer Competition) was leadership skills such as convoy tactical operations, urban tactical drills, understanding the medical echelon and various other leadership skills.

At the end of the first phase (which was held over a three week period) the participants went to the field for three days to put all of their knowledge to good use.

After the field exercises they had a repelling course and team building exercises one day and the next day was

the "Iron NCO" competition.

This competition comprised of a four-mile, 30 pound ruck march/run, a 16-station obstacle course, 30 push ups and 50 sit ups with 3/4 mile run before it was completed.

Out of approximately 49 competitors, SGT Laird finished third with a final time of 58 minutes and 21 seconds.

The first place time was 53 min, second place was 55 min.

The following seven weeks consisted of a tracking phase in which participants learn different aspects of their job.



Letter to Airmen

Michael W. Wynne
Secretary of the Air Force

10 May 06

Service Before Self

This past February, in my Letter to Airmen addressing our three *USAF Core Values*, I shared these thoughts on *Service Before Self*:

It is not the same as "service," a value also claimed by some civilian institutions and corporations. Our *service* requires sacrifice and commitment to our Nation. We understand we make decisions in an environment where freedoms are on the line, and lives are at stake. *Service Before Self* begins with duty, but it means more: It means that, in our Air Force, as we fly and fight in war and peace, *going above and beyond the call of duty is not the exception -- it is the rule.*

It is the rule because every Airman is an expeditionary Airman, whom the Joint Team counts on every day to be trained and battle ready. Delivering sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America and its global interests requires self-sacrifice.

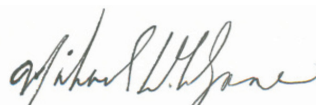
As I visit and work with Airmen around the world, I could not be prouder of the many ways that you sacrifice for *Service Before Self*, whether the mission is combat operations or humanitarian relief. The aftermath of Hurricane Katrina provides a great example. Many of our critical search and rescue Airmen who had just returned from Operation Iraqi Freedom deployments immediately went to rescue Americans from rooftops in New Orleans instead of taking a well-earned leave.

Another example of such *Service Before Self* is the remarkable number of Air Force Reservists and Air National Guardsmen who volunteer for deployments. At great sacrifice to their families and often at the expense of their private businesses, they continue to volunteer to contribute to the fight. Their service allows our Air Force leaders to integrate them into units creating a truly seamless Total Force for the Joint Team.

Your service in the Air Force -- with all the risks and sacrifices that service demands -- is service to our nation, to its values, and to its dreams. The participation in 'wingman' programs to enhance relationships and security to fellow airmen is yet a further example.

Everything we have done -- and everything we will do -- begins with an oath that changes our lives. We understand that the nation depends upon us to live up to that oath. We understand that, as we serve on the front lines of freedom, our promise to serve must come before all else.

On behalf of the Air Force, and on behalf of a grateful nation, I thank you for your dedication, your devotion, and your *Service Before Self*. I salute you all.


Michael W. Wynne

Music Marathon

Wednesday, May 31

Enjoy your favorite music from

7 a.m. – 5 p.m.

7 – 9 a.m. Today's hits; yesterday's favorites

9 – 11 a.m. Classic Rock

11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Country

1 – 3 p.m. Oldies

3 – 5 p.m. Rock and Alternative

AFN to cease live broadcasts

AFN Keflavik is ending their live radio shows May 31 by going live from 7 a.m to 5 p.m.

For the last day of live radio they'll have the current line up of shows as well as bringing back some old favorites. AFN Keflavik will be going to all satellite feeds as of June 1.

That means no more local DJ's and no more requests. Help AFN Keflavik and K104 go out with a bang by making this last day a fun and memorable experience.

Tune in for the last day of live radio shows at NAS Keflavik, May 31 on K104!

AFN will continue to be a valuable source of base information during the transition.



Your bags are packed, you're ready to go, You're standing there outside your door ... **WAIT!** Did you forget to pick up your WIC transfer card? Call 4129 for more information.

Navy's Newest Naval Coastal Warfare Squadron Commissioned

Story by PHAN Mandy McLaurin

A commissioning ceremony was held May 20 for Naval Coastal Warfare Squadron (NCWRON) 4 at Hospital Point Park at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, Va.

The pennant of commissioning was broken by the squadron's first commanding officer, Cmdr. James Campbell, who ordered his Sailors to man their fighting positions and "bring the squadron to life."

NCWRON 4 is the seventh NCWRON, the first active-duty unit on the east coast, and is comprised of a Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare

Unit, Inshore Boat Units (IBU) 41, 42, 43 and staff.

"The overall mission of our combined units and staff is to conduct port security, coastal surveillance and interception as necessary, as well as protect any maritime asset and infrastructure that we may be tasked," said Campbell. "This includes ships, submarines, piers, ports, oil platforms or a new beach head for delivering supplies to support humanitarian assistance."

Campbell continued by saying he was proud of his squadron and that he has a motivated crew.

"I like being a part of the squadron," said Master-at-arms Seaman Apprentice Michael George, a member of the newly-established NCWRON 4. "I feel we are ready and well-prepared."

According to Capt. Brian Barrington, commodore, Naval Coastal Warfare Group 2, the squadron's primary mission will be anti-terrorism and force protection in harbors and coastal waterways in the continental United States and overseas locations such as Korea, the Persian Gulf and the Horn of Africa region.

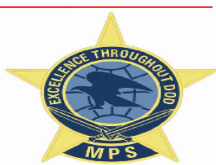
"While it is important to realize NCWRON 4 is only part of the Navy's expeditionary force," said Barrington, "it is clear that NCWRON 4 will become one of the critical command and control elements for these expeditionary forces."

NCWRON 4 is the second active-duty squadron created since the Vietnam War and consists of approximately 300 Sailors.



In recognition of Memorial Day, the Post Office will be closed Friday, May 26 and Monday, May 29.

Normal business hours will resume on May 30.



Any questions call the Post Office at 7981/2157.

NASKEF Fil-Ams celebrates Flores de Mayo



Filipino American members of the NASKEF community joined together to celebrate Flores de Mayo (Flowers of May), May 12. This celebration honors the Virgin Mary, and started in the Philippines in 1854. Participants celebrated with a parade where children had the opportunity to dress in traditional garb, and enjoy a pot luck style meal at the Community Center.

(Photos by JO2 Matthew Bradley)



USAFE, 48th Fighter Wing personnel teams eases Keflavik transitions

Story by Capt. Beth Horine

Base closures are never an easy thing to execute. Transitioning an overseas installation back to its host nation is even tougher, especially when the operational mission must continue even during the changes and upheaval it causes service members and their families. Try accomplishing both feats under a three-to-six month time limit.

At Naval Air Station Keflavik, Iceland, the Airmen assigned to the 85th Group are continuing to expertly execute their air defense mission while preparing to transition to new bases and new locations around the world.

"The reassignment process for the entire group has been an amazing process to watch," said Col. Phillip Gibbons, 85th Group commander. "Our Airmen and their families are closing this base and moving their families, pets, household goods and vehicles in less than four months, an impossibly short time period for such an undertaking. I appreciate their support in accomplishing this while continuing to safely achieve our flying mission."

To assist in the reassignments and personnel challenges Airmen are facing, U.S. Air Forces in Europe's personnel directorate sent two teams of

three experts to Iceland.

The first team was led by the U.S. Air Forces Europe (USAFE) Director of Manpower and Personnel, Col. Robert Suminsby and his two experts, Chief Master Sgt. Brian Glasgow, chief of enlisted assignments, and Master Sgt. Alex Pitsiaeli, superintendent, enlisted assignments, to brief the troops and their spouses on how the closure is going to work from an assignment perspective.

"We felt it was extremely important for the Keflavik community to receive the most timely and accurate information possible concerning the base closure and unit move," said Glasgow.

The team provided eight target briefings during their first two-day visit to Iceland. Suminsby personally opened each briefing to stress the dedication the USAFE assignments team had to make this as smooth of a transition as possible. At the end of each briefing, the floor was opened for a question-and-answer session.

The second team traveled to Iceland five days later to begin the assignment process. The team included Pitsiaeli and Tech. Sgts Kim Perreira from USAFE airman assignments and Tech Sgt. Sean How from the AFPC Force Structure section to ensure unforeseen "snags" could be handled on the spot.

Each member who received an assignment had a face-to-face appointment with a member of the assignment team to allow any questions or concerns to be immediately resolved. The team provided more than 350 assignments, accepted more than 20 special duty applications, and processed more than 20 volunteer statements for Korea in just two days.

"I was really impressed by the Airmen at Keflavik. Though they are dealing with the stressors of a base closure, an unexpected PCS, and unusually long duty hours, they all maintained their professionalism and their morale was

surprisingly high," said Perreira, assignment team member.

For the Airmen at NAS Keflavik, although still frustrated about the sudden moves and abrupt changes ahead, they appreciated the one-on-one assistance provided by Air Force leadership.

"I think USAFE/A1 was very proactive and helpful in providing assistance for the enlisted assignments," said Capt. Karla Taff, 85th Group protocol officer. "Our troops may not have received the assignment they wanted, but the process was thoughtfully laid out ... and reduced the majority of anxiety associated with the transition."


Brig. Gen. Robert P. Steel, the 48th Fighter Wing commander and wing commander for the 85th Group, is concerned with the challenges the 85th Group Airmen are facing and is doing everything possible to ease their transition, along with USAFE leadership.

"I understand some of the preparations to relocate have been taxing. Inactivating a group, while continuing the mission, and taking care of future careers and families undoubtedly presents some unique challenges," Steel said.


"The process of moving and handling items such as housing, vehicle shipping and schooling has naturally left our Keflavik Airmen with many questions and concerns. For these reasons, I sent some folks from our family support center to Keflavik to help walk our troops through the relocation process," he added.

Between the USAFE assignments team and the family support center team here, Keflavik Airmen are beginning to feel more confident the Air Force is taking care of them and their families as they move from Iceland to a new base.

Although the coming months will bring many more operational and personal challenges for the Airmen at NAS Keflavik, they have a support system to help at every step along the way.



Attention All Personnel



The 85 GP Command Post has converted to a Unit Control Center.

CP facility is no longer manned 24/7

- **Our duty hours are:**
 - Monday thru Friday 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
 - Main phone line: 5007 still available
 - For non-duty-hours emergencies, please call us at: 0-860-5411

Current as of: 19 May 2006 "Constant Watch, Ready Response, Agile Support"